



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	5GS15144; Logtown East Side Fuel Break (LT10) Monitor Section		
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PROJECT LOCATION	T 9N R10E, Sections 14, 23, 26 MDBM	COUNTY	El Dorado
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LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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CONTACT	Patrick McDaniel		
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ADDRESS	CAL FIRE		
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	Amador-El Dorado Unit		
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	2840 Mt Danaher Road		
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	Camino, CA 95709		
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PHONE	530-647-5288		
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Project Description

Logtown East Side Fuel Break (LT-10) Statement of Work

The Logtown East Side Fuel Break will be constructed as a linear feature 200 to 300 feet wide approximately 1.3 miles long parallel to and between Dolomite Dr. and Union Mine Rd. Logtown 10 shaded Fuel Break will be constructed using a combination of treatments. The objective of the treatment is to reduce surface and ladder fuels, and to achieve canopy spacing to mitigate the threat of wildfire to private property. This project entails removing small trees and brush to create a Fuel Reduction Zone or shaded Fuel Break located on both improved and unimproved residential parcels. Permission has been granted from all the private landowners at this point. The general project area has been marked with pink flagging on the ground in some cases the flagging is only done along the top of the fuel break with the intent that the contractor will treat up to 300 feet below the flag line. Work will be done outside the required defensible space of 100 feet around homes. Hardwood stands with a high percentage of oaks can provide excellent food and cover for wildlife. Retain live trees with cavities for squirrels, raccoons, and other cavity dwellers. Contractor may leave downed Oak limbs and decaying logs, when vegetation is lying in a position not to threaten ignition of adjacent trees or shrubs.

Snags prove excellent wildlife habitat in their natural state. Leave dead standing trees (snags) to provide insects and nesting cavities for birds. Snags should not be taller than 30 feet in height, not capable of reaching a home or road. Treat adjacent trees so canopy cover is spaced at least 10 feet away. Snags that have fallen become decayed; consider when to leave for diversity.

Treatments

Mastication: The use of rubber tired or tracked vehicles to cut, chip, and scatter all shrubs and small trees up to 9" Diameter at Breast Height (DBH), 4 1/2 feet above the ground on the uphill side. Trees should be spaced approximately 20 feet between the boles. Trees in order of importance and to be retained on site if possible: 1) California buckeye, 2) Large Oak trees. Retention of these trees is important, but meeting the spacing requirements is a more important consideration. All trees not mechanically treated within the project area will be limbed up to 10 feet above the ground surface, leaving tree crowns with at least 1/3 live crown ratio. Brush cover should be reduced by creating a mosaic of treated and untreated shrubs. Openings between shrubs should be twice the height of the shrubs and 80-90% of the shrubs should be treated. No individual pieces of cut material should be greater than 4 feet long. All masticated stumps shall be cut to within 3 inches of the ground pieces of masticated material should average 2 to 3 inches in length and no material should be left larger than 3 feet long. The use of mechanical equipment will require CEQA to mitigate any environmental concerns for the use of heavy equipment. It will also require implementation of California Forest Practice Rules.

No mastication debris should average more than 4 inches in depth over the entire project area. All cut vegetation shall be kept within the unit boundaries. Any cut vegetation falling into ditches, roads, road banks, trails, or adjacent units shall immediately be removed.

Hand Thin: Will need to be done on ground steeper than 40 percent to prevent soil erosion. Trees leaning into powerlines along powerline corridors will be roped and pulled for felling and all the brush cut. Hand thinning should be accomplished



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using a hand crew with chainsaws. The contractor will be required to cut material up to 9" at breast height with 20' spacing between leave trees. All brush species will be cut. Brush and small trees that are treated shall be cut to a maximum of 3 inches stump height, all uncut trees will be limbed up to 10 feet above the ground and limbed material treated by chipping or burning. Trees to be retained on site if possible: 1) California Buckeye, 2) large Oak trees. Retention of these trees is important, however meeting the spacing requirements is still the most important consideration within the fuel break.

Chipping: Chipping is the preferred method of disposal of hand cut material and will be used as an alternative to burning near homes and where access permits the chipper to be brought close to the cutting area. Chips will be distributed over the landscape with an average depth of no more than 4 inches.

Pile Burn: If the contractor selects pile burning, acreage is approximately 30 acres of piles, and the contractor will be required to do the following:

Starting with the smallest diameter trees, remove trees up to 6 inches dbh to achieve spacing of 20 feet between residual crowns. All dead and down material greater than 3 inches in diameter and up to 8 inches in diameter and all cut material regardless of size should be piled for burning. Piles should be constructed compactly, beginning with a core of fine fuels and minimizing air spaces to facilitate complete combustion. Piles should be constructed away from trees to prevent damage when burning and piles should not be taller than 5 feet. Each pile will be lined with fire line to mineral soil up to 3 feet wide. Piles will be covered with water resistant paper, a 4'x4' square to cover the fine material in the center of the piles. Contractor will be required to get all necessary permits for burning and burn the piles at the direction of the project coordinator after the rainy season has started. Contractor will be required to have an engine on site during the burning and to provide a small engine for patrol. As the piles burn down the contractor must push the unburned material on the inside of the fire line into the pile to burn up all pile residual.

Contractor must tend the burning piles until they are completely burn out and no heat is detected using an approved heat detector the contractor will assume all liability for burning

The contractor will be responsible for burning the piles and following all the requirements of CALFIRE, the local fire district, and El Dorado County Air Quality Management District as it relates to pile burning.



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EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: CEQA Article 19 Categorical Exemptions
15304 (i) pertaining to fuels reduction
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- ☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

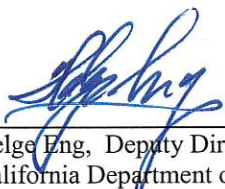
REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of CEQA Article 19 Categorical Exemptions 15304 (i) pertaining to fuels reduction

Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at Amador-El Dorado Ranger Unit.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
DEC 06 2017
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE


Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

11/30/17